

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 are pending. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are independent. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 12-14, and 16-19 are hereby amended. Claims 2, 11, and 20 are hereby canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. The present amendment obviates this rejection.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The present amendment obviates this rejection.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2-5, 8-9, 11-14, and 17-18 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form on page 5 of the Office Action.

The allowable subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 10 and 19 are similar in scope, and are therefore patentable for similar reasons.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for noting the allowable subject matter.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance
and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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